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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 45/79 of 15 December 1990, entitled "Strengthening of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region", the General Assembly, inter alia, invited all Member States as well as the relevant international organizations and subregional groupings, to communicate to the Secretary-General concrete ideas and suggestions concerning this issue, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

2. Pursuant to that resolution, the Secretary-General, on 15 April 1991, addressed a note verbale to all States requesting their views on the question of strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the resolution.

3. As at 31 August 1991, six Governments had replied to the Secretary-General's note verbale. By the same date, four communications pertaining to the subject had also been submitted to the Secretary-General. Three of these were circulated as official documents of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/46/98-S/22297; A/46/202 and Corr.1; A/46/329-S/22855). Excerpts from the fourth communication appear as an annex to this report.

II. SUMMARY OF THE DEBATE ON THE QUESTION OF STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION DURING THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4. For the most part, States addressing the issue of strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, reiterated that Mediterranean security was closely linked to security in Europe and to international peace and security. Several delegations expressed their appreciation of the favourable political developments in international relations and the positive impact they might have on the Mediterranean region. Other delegations noted that security in the Mediterranean was indivisible and that all actions in the region should be aimed at promoting peace, security and cooperation.

5. A number of delegations expressed concern about persistent tensions in the Mediterranean and within some adjacent areas. In this connection, some States referred to continuing military presence and related activities in the region, as well as to persistent economic and social inequalities among States. Delegations also renewed their calls for steps to solve existing crises and conflicts in the Mediterranean, reduce military and naval presence, adopt disarmament and confidence-building measures, intensify regional and subregional cooperation in various fields, and eliminate economic and social disparities in levels of development. Some delegations also noted that greater attention should be paid to the problems of environmental protection in the Mediterranean.

6. A number of representatives reaffirmed their conviction as to a primary role of the Mediterranean countries in the process of strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region, and in promoting international dialogue and concerted efforts in this respect. In this connection, some delegations noted that the Declaration on the Prospects of Global Dialogue on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, adopted at the Third Ministerial Conference of the Mediterranean Non-Aligned Countries held at Algiers in June 1990, had confirmed the sincere desire of these countries to work together closely in the search for peace and stability in the region.

7. Several delegations expressed satisfaction with the results of the Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held at Palma de Mallorca in September and October 1990. A number of States noted in this connection that widespread agreement had emerged at the meeting on the proposal for convening, once the conditions were met in the region, a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. Some States noted, in particular, the readiness of the Mediterranean countries to open regional consultations on that proposal.

8. A number of delegations spoke on the development of subregional relations as a factor that may have a positive impact on strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. In this connection, references were made to the 83rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Nicosia in April 1990; the first meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, held in Tirana in October 1990; and to the recent meetings of the Arab Maghreb Union.

9. Some delegations noted that the United Nations was in a position to contribute significantly to matters related to the Mediterranean. This could be achieved particularly, through the monitoring of events in the Mediterranean, by liaising with the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, regional and subregional Commissions, organizations and institutions; and by providing analysis of agreements and measures now being undertaken in Europe and in neighbouring regions. It was hoped that this would positively affect regional security in the Mediterranean.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CYPRUS

[Original: English]

[10 July 1991]

1. The changing international political landscape in the wake of the shift away from bloc politics and security concepts based on the precarious balance of deterrence, or doctrines of military superiority, demonstrates both the relevance and urgent need for a collective security system to maintain international peace and security. Events in Europe and in the disarmament field, particularly the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Negotiations on Confidence Building Measures, are welcomed by the Republic of

Cyprus as positive developments whose ripple effect, it is hoped, will spread to other regions. The Mediterranean region because of its proximity, would be a logical starting-point.

2. The link between security in Europe and the Mediterranean was recognized in the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and maintains its relevance today, as expressed at the various CSCE Follow-Up Meetings. The signing of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe in November 1990, by the States participating in the CSCE, reaffirmed that security and cooperation in the Mediterranean is an important factor for stability in Europe. A clear example of this, is the recognition by the Secretary-General in his speech at that meeting, that the Cyprus problem is a European one whose solution is long overdue.

3. The Republic of Cyprus attaches particular importance to the process of promoting and enhancing security in the region and supports the establishment of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean and consultations with all qualifying States to this end. In this regard, the non-aligned countries of the Mediterranean continue to make a significant contribution to the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. It is relevant to recall that the Algiers Meeting, held in June 1990, expressed support for the convening of a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean. The Republic of Cyprus also recognizes and welcomes the outcome of the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Ten Countries of the Western Mediterranean, held in Rome in October 1990, and the Palma de Mallorca Meeting, held in September 1990. The Republic of Cyprus believes that the underlying current of all the above, which it embraces, is the emerging agreement for a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus also welcomes the decision of the European Parliament, adopted on 17 May 1991.

4. The Republic of Cyprus, in recognizing the link between security in the Mediterranean and Europe, remains alarmed at the persistent conflicts and tensions affecting the region. The Middle East conflict, the question of Palestine, the situation in Lebanon as well as the continued military occupation of part of the territory of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey following its invasion in 1974, constitute serious threats to peace and security in the region.

5. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus reiterates its commitment to the promotion ofthe Mediterranean region as zone of security, peace and cooperation, free from conflict and confrontation. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus emphasizes the need for the just and peaceful settlement of existing problems in the region, for the respect and safeguarding of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries and peoples of the Mediterranean and for full adherence to the principle of non-use of force or threat of use of force, together with the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

6. Whilst reaffirming the above, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus reiterates its commitment to the total demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus upon the withdrawal of the Turkish occupation forces and settlers, thereby contributing significantly to peace and security in the region, in Europe and to international peace and security in the wider context.

7. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus reiterates its conviction that the United Nations, through implementation of the Charter and its resolutions and recognizing the need where the situation demands, for collective security measures, can play an important role in resolving urgent Mediterranean problems. Strict adherence to and consistent implementation of, General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, must take place if the Mediterranean region is to be transformed into one of security, peace and cooperation.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[23 April 1991]

1. I wish to confirm that the Government of Ecuador unreservedly supports the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and cooperation among States and therefore firmly believes that it is the international community which must assume responsibility for acting in accordance with these principles and with those laid down in the United Nations Charter.

2. Similarly, Ecuador considers not only that the countries of the region should be encouraged to pursue their efforts to promote peace, security and cooperation among them, but also that the international community as a whole must undertake to provide an appropriate climate for developing the process of dialogue and consultation launched by the Mediterranean countries.

3. Furthermore, Ecuador shares the view that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to world security and does not therefore believe that degrees of responsibility can be established when seeking to preserve it, just as it does not believe that the overall problem of the region can be dealt with by means of sectoral mechanisms.

4. Consequently, although Ecuador welcomes the achievements of the Ministerial Conference of the Mediterranean Non-Aligned Countries held at Algiers in June 1990 and the positive resolutions of the Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe held at Palma de Mallorca in the same year, it considers that joint efforts under the auspices of the United Nations could strengthen the political dialogue between all Mediterranean countries so as to ease tensions and seek concerted solutions to overcome crises and conflicts through the fostering of cooperation.

5. The just and peaceful settlement of the persistent problems of the region, which is an aspiration shared by all members of the international community, cannot be achieved unless the various positions and aspirations of all Mediterranean States are heard and respected. The consolidation of sectoral interests can only entail the imposition of a very fragile security in the region.

SWEDEN

[Original: English]

[22 May 1991]

1. Sweden strongly supports the promotion of peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region and joined in the consensus on resolution 45/79. Sweden believes that the primary role in these efforts must rest with the countries in the region concerned.

2. If experience gained through cooperation within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe can be usefully employed in other circumstances as appropriate, this would be welcome by Sweden.

UKRAINE

[Original: Russian]

[18 July 1991]

1. The unique geographical, political, economic, strategic, national, religious and other characteristics of the Mediterranean stem from a convergence in this region of the interests and problems of Europe, North Africa and the Middle East and of a number of major Powers. Clearly, any tension in that region causes deep concern. Now that the military confrontation in the Persian Gulf has ended and the post-war settlement process is steadily gathering speed, the international community has been able to focus its efforts on the search for a fair and definitive Middle East settlement that would not only radically improve the situation in the Middle East and the Mediterranean but would also have a positive impact further afield.

2. Ukraine, which borders on the Black Sea and, as such, is a Mediterranean State, has closely followed developments in the Mediterranean region and is in favour of transforming it into a zone of lasting peace, security and mutual cooperation. All States of the region must redouble their efforts to achieve that goal, and all relevant initiatives must be examined in a constructive matter.

3. The Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held in Palma de Mallorca (Spain) from 24 September to

19 October 1990, a noteworthy event to which Ukraine attached great importance, drew the attention of the States of the region to a whole set of political, socio-economic, ecological and cultural problems: it took note of the interdependence of peace and security in Europe and in the Mediterranean, of the danger that a further disruption in the economic and social development of certain countries there would entail for the stability of the entire continent, and of the urgent need to resolve burning ecological questions and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Mediterranean peoples. The meeting adopted an important and comprehensive final document, the report of the Meeting on the Mediterranean of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which paves the way for efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region.

4. Considerable interest has been shown for the proposal of Italy, Spain, France and Portugal to convene a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, which, by devising measures to improve relations among the countries of the region, could become an effective instrument for guaranteeing common interests in the area of security, cooperation and the human dimension. The conference could emerge as a system to ensure stability and détente by creating specific mechanisms to resolve existing and any future conflicts, while allowing for the particularities of the region. It would have to evolve into an all-encompassing process for taking parallel steps to settle conflict situations, eliminate trouble spots, build confidence among the countries of the region and also between those countries and the States of other regions, reduce arms and armed forces and promote fruitful regional cooperation in the political, socio-economic, environmental, scientific, humanitarian and other areas. In the longer term, the overall improvement in the political and psychological climate in the Mediterranean will create more favourable conditions both for the implementation of measures in the strategic and disarmament spheres and for a positive development of all aspects of the situation in the region.

5. Ukraine is devoting considerable attention to cooperation in the subregions of the Mediterranean, and the Black Sea basin in particular. In that connection, Turkey has launched a very useful and timely initiative to create a Black Sea zone to give impetus to economic cooperation on a broad range of questions among States with an outlet to the Black Sea. Ukraine fully avails itself of its membership in the Danube Commission and intends to participate actively in its work.

6. As in other regions of the world, coordination between countries on questions of trade and economic relations, transport, the environment, information, culture and education, sport and tourism, the protection of the rights of national minorities and non-military aspects of security plays an important role in fostering peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. Ukraine is focusing on a wide-ranging development of bilateral and multilateral ties on those questions with neighbouring countries, including those in the Mediterranean. Such cooperation leads to greater stability, mutual understanding and confidence, thus defusing the sources of military confrontation, and is also conducive to disarmament, demilitarization and good-neighbourly relations in the region.

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

[Original: Russian]

[30 May 1991]

1. The Soviet Union is convinced that the new element in international relations, characterized by a shift from confrontation to broad-based partnership, together with the active search for new security formulas in the various regions of the world, above all on the European continent, are creating genuine preconditions for development of the process of strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

2. The Soviet Union attaches much importance to guaranteeing security and stability in this important region of the world. Owing to geographical and historical conditions the performance of this task is closely interwoven with the unfolding of the Helsinki process and with the situation in the vast Maghreb region.

3. The Soviet Union notes with satisfaction that its assessment of the situation in the Mediterranean coincides with the approach to the problem taken by other countries of the region. The strengthening of security in this region would help to create a broad belt of peace and cooperation across areas of Europe, Asia and Africa.

4. The Soviet Union regards as very timely the recent initiative of Italy, Spain, France and Portugal to convene a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. The experience of the crisis in the Persian Gulf has highlighted the need to establish and maintain at least a minimal level of contact among the States of this vast region, with their various religions and traditions.

5. The idea of having all the region's problems on the table together for discussion at such a conference coincides with the basic approach of the USSR to the strengthening of security in the Mediterranean and to the overall process which includes parallel action to settle conflicts, eliminate flashpoints of confrontation, build confidence among Mediterranean and other States, and develop fruitful regional cooperation in all spheres.

6. The main task of such a conference would be to start up a dialogue to prepare and adopt a set of principles and rules of conduct and coexistence in the region. The drafting of such rules might be based on the Charter of the United Nations and on the development in the Mediterranean of the experience acquired in the all-European process, with the characteristics of the Mediterranean region taken expressly into account.

7. Parallel action would be justified on the fundamental topics of a conference: security, cooperation, and the human dimension. At the same time, of course, no rigid links should be established between "baskets" and the issues to be settled a various stages of the process.

8. For its part the Soviet Union believes that it is important to make a start right now on filling these "baskets" with specific content and it has taken initiatives for the implementation of measures of disarmament and confidence-building in the Mediterranean region. It would be very important, in the Soviet view, to extend such measures to all forms of military activity, including of course naval activities. The Soviet initiatives envisage inter alia the freezing and limitation of the numbers of warships of the USSR and the United States in the Mediterranean Sea; the withdrawal of ships carrying nuclear weapons; a refusal to deploy nuclear weapons in the territory of non-nuclear Mediterranean countries and an undertaking by the nuclear Powers not to use such weapons against any Mediterranean country which refuses to permit their deployment in its territory; notification of the movements of warships and of the conduct of military manoeuvres, and the invitation of observers to such manoeuvres; the reduction of armed forces; the elaboration of principles and methods to guarantee the safety of busy shipping routes in the region; and the extension to the region of agreed confidence-building measures. All these issues could be resolved by consultation among the States concerned.

9. The Soviet proposal concerning the creation of an international mechanism for the compilation, classification and establishment of orders of priority and implementation of all existing proposals for the improvement of the situation in the Mediterranean remains in force. A meeting of experts from Mediterranean and other interested States might be held for this purpose.

10. It would be very useful for the advancement of the conference to convene a forum of economic cooperation among Mediterranean States and even at the present stage to begin developing cooperation for the solution of problems of the environment, transport, culture and tourism, and for the expansion of interparliamentary and other links.

11. Regional organizations, primarily the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity and the European Community, can play an important role in the implementation of proposals for strengthening security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

12. The Soviet Union is convinced that the United Nations can make a substantial contribution to the unfolding of the Mediterranean process. The resolutions of the General Assembly concerning the strengthening of security and cooperation in the region contain a positive basis for progress in this direction. The specialized agencies could have a special voice in this process. Through their active cooperation it would be possible to create the elements of a cooperation infrastructure in the region. In this connection it is important to carry out the United Nations programmes relating to the Mediterranean, for example those adopted under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme.

13. In short, it is the view of the Soviet Union that the realization of the concept of the conference would help to create the necessary political and psychological climate and promote the building of confidence for the solution of the region's complex and diverse problems.

14. As in the past, the Soviet Union is ready to continue its cooperation with all interested parties in order to secure a joint effort to transform the Mediterranean into a region of lasting peace, trust, stability and broad international cooperation.

YUGOSLAVIA

[Original: English]

[29 May 1991]

1. In accordance with its expressed support for the strengthening of peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean and also as a Mediterranean country which attaches priority attention to these issues, Yugoslavia is particularly interested in further elaboration of the principles and the extension of cooperation in the Mediterranean. In that regard, Yugoslavia attaches special significance to the conclusions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, held in Palma de Mallorca, which call upon all participating and other interested States to contribute to the realization of the recommendations in the field of economic, financial and trade cooperation, to the protection of monuments of culture and to the promotion and preservation of ecosystems in the Mediterranean.

2. The Permanent Mission wishes to take this opportunity to once again voice Yugoslavia's support to the initiative that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean be convened as it is of universal importance since the peace and security of this region are closely linked to the peace and security in the world.

ANNEX

Principles of a common Mediterranean policy

1. Stresses, as a matter of priority, the need for an active and consistent European Community policy for the Mediterranean, a policy that must be based on a significant extension of cooperation and consultation between the Community and non-EEC Mediterranean countries (NEMCs);

2. Calls for an intensification of the Euro-Arab dialogue, with not only development and problems of current interest being discussed, but also fundamental questions relating to cross-cultural coexistence and cooperation;

3. Hopes that in implementing the Commission's proposals to the Council for a common Mediterranean policy for the period 1992-96 (SEC(90) 0812) account will be taken of Parliament's recommendations as set out in this resolution;

4. Takes the view, that in addition to economic, financial and trade cooperation, consideration should also be given to a common Mediterranean policy in cooperation with the NEMCs and international institutions and organizations in the following areas in particular:

   (a) the environmental crisis in the Mediterranean,

   (b) the population explosion,

   (c) cooperation on energy,

   (d) cooperation in the areas of culture, education and occupational training;

5. Takes the view that in addition to providing economic support for development in countries on the Mediterranean seaboard, the Community should, having regard to the growing volume of migration, make representations to the Member States to regulate the free movement of persons, including the immigration problem, at Community level;

6. Advocates the renewal and extension of Community financial protocols to include the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, and in that connection regards the proposal for the establishment of a Euro-Arab development bank following the example of the ERDB as a significant breakthrough;

7. Calls for an even-handed and effective approach to human-relations problems in connection with immigration by large numbers of people from the Maghreb countries to the Community, to be based on a genuine and continuing dialogue in which each party is placed on a footing of equality with the others;

/...

Basic principles of security policy

8. Takes the view that security policy in the Mediterranean must be considered as one of the components of a pan-European peace policy, and that such a peace policy must be capable of addressing such issues as ecological, demographic, cultural and religious problems, together with problems arising from the movement of refugees;

9. Also takes the view that the upholding of fundamental and human rights, the consolidation of democratic principles and the narrowing of the gap between rich and poor both within societies and between nations, must be considered as key components of peace and security policy.

10. Recognizes that, although the Mediterranean needs to be seen in an overall political perspective and its problems, particularly in matters of security, are indivisible, it is nevertheless possible for specific measures to be adapted to the different circumstances or conflict zones, viz: the Western Mediterranean (conflict in the Western Sahara), the Eastern Mediterranean (the dispute over Cyprus), the Near East (Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian question and the conflict in Lebanon), the Middle East (Gulf War, the Kurdish problem); and that measures for preventing and settling conflicts must consequently be tailored to the specific circumstances and causes of conflict in the regions concerned to facilitate efforts to find prompt solutions;

11. Takes the view that crises and conflicts in the Mediterranean must be solved in the first instance by the directly affected parties themselves, and that action by other countries or groups of countries must in the first instance be confined to proposing initiatives and offering supporting action;

12. Takes the view that where this is not already happening, all United Nations Security Council decisions and recommendations on the different crises and conflicts in the Mediterranean must be upheld and implemented;

13. Advocates the holding of a Near-East peace conference under United Nations auspices and based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and on the principles of the June 1980 Venice Declaration by the European Community Council of Ministers, together with any other initiatives that, on the conclusion of the Gulf War, could help to tackle the root causes of the conflicts in the region and prevent further military aggression;

14. Advocates coordinated implementation of appropriate sanctions if long-term compliance with United Nations resolutions on conflicts in the Mediterranean cannot be secured;

15. Underlines the strategic importance of the islands in the Mediterranean and the need to avoid crises and conflicts over the islands and, where these arise, to resolve them under international law;

16. Considers that the United Nations, as the unifying organization of the international community of nations, should play a pre-eminent and coordinating role in the settlement of conflicts in the Mediterranean area;

17. Recommends measures to encourage and promote dialogue and relations between the Mediterranean populations at various levels, including Governments, local authorities and civil groups;

18. Affirms the right and duty of the European Community to develop a preventive security policy against the danger of war and destabilization originating in the Middle East by taking action aimed at removing the underlying causes of the conflicts and not just their surface manifestations;

19. Calls on all States concerned with security in the Mediterranean to accede to the Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and to make moves towards the prohibition of biological and chemical weapons and towards conventional force and arms reductions;

20. Calls for a world-wide ban on biological and chemical weapons and, where necessary, measures to monitor compliance with this ban; calls also for an effective and controlled non-proliferation policy in respect of nuclear weapons;

21. Calls on the Member States of the European Community, in cooperation with their NATO partners, to implement a common policy of restricted arms exports to Mediterranean crisis areas, including the Near and Middle East, and to monitor compliance at Economic Community level;

22. Stresses the importance to the European Community's security of the free movement of shipping in the waters of the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf;

23. Calls on Turkey to comply with the United Nations resolutions regarding Cyprus and, in particular, to withdraw all troops from Cyprus; calls on the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to resume dialogue with each other under the auspices of the United Nations; calls on the European Community to take measures to promote a just solution that will restore the unity and integrity of Cyprus with full guarantees for all its citizens and its ethnic communities;

24. Calls on the Council to support the initiative by the President-in-Office for effective Community intervention with a view to achieving a lasting solution to the problem of Cyprus in accordance with United Nations decisions and decisions to date by the Community institutions;

25. Calls on Greece and Turkey to initiate a dialogue with a view to solving their disputes, and calls on the European Community to take measures to facilitate and maintain such a dialogue;

Long-term arrangements to maintain peace

26. Supports a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM), thereby laying a long-term foundation for the prevention of conflict, peaceful resolution of conflicts and cooperation in the Mediterranean;

27. Would welcome it if, in addition to the Mediterranean seaboard countries, other countries party to the CSCE, together with interested countries from the Near East (including a legitimate representation of the Palestinian people), were to take part in the CSCM process;

28. Also considers it appropriate for a European Community representation to take part in the CSCM;

29. Takes the view that although the CSCE can help to lay down guidelines for the CSCM, the approaches and methods of the CSCE should not be imitated to the letter in relation to the Mediterranean, since the causes and limiting conditions of the conflicts in that region differ substantially in many respects from the CSCE frame of reference;

30. Takes the view that a CSCM can lead to a binding agreement between the participant countries in the following areas:

(a) Security (in accordance with basic principles of international coexistence, including the inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers unless mutual agreement is reached to change them, renunciation of the use of force, recognition of sovereignty, non-intervention in internal affairs, disarmament and arms control, security-enhancing and confidence-building measures, measures to combat terrorism);

(b) Cooperation (development and diversification of economic relations, industrial and technological cooperation, financial cooperation and support measures, energy and environment);

(c) Interpersonal and social aspects, in particular respect for fundamental and human rights, the postulate of democracy, cultural dialogue and religious toleration, problems of immigration;

31. Also advocates that in the CSCM framework a centre for the prevention of conflict should be set up to serve as a platform for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of confidence-building and security-enhancing measures, and that political efforts should be made in the area of conflict prevention, and talks held on measures to de-escalate conflicts in crisis situations;

32. Takes the view that cooperation within regional sub-groups of the Mediterranean (e.g. Western Mediterranean, Eastern Mediterranean, European Community Mediterranean countries) could form an appropriate extension to the CSCM process on matters of joint interest, and that it

would be appropriate in that connection for special conferences to be held on a restricted and specific basis;

33. Calls on the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation to give their full and active support to measures to convene a CSCM and to develop it further as a Community endeavour.